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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor : William M. Radich Appln. No.: 10/607,967 Filed : June 27, 2003 For : COMPUTATION OF BRANCH METRIC VALUES IN A DATA DETECTOR Docket No.: S104.12-0037/STL 11305	Group Art Unit: 2133 Examiner: Mujtaba M. Chaudry
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A. Rego
PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 17, 2006. In the Office Action, all pending claims 1-20 were rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

On page 2 of the Office Action, FIGS. 1 and 2-1 were objected to for not including a legend such as --Prior Art--. At the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "a figure is only acceptable without a 'Prior Art' label if that which is depicted incorporates the novel feature of the invention." Applicant respectfully points out that FIG. 2-1 shows an example read channel 200 that includes data detection and recovery circuitry 204 (shown in greater detail in FIG. 2-2), which incorporates features of example embodiments of the present invention. Example disc drive 100, of FIG. 1, includes the example read channel of FIG. 2-1. Thus, FIGS. 1 and 2-1